

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INR-10 SS-15 L-03 /046 W
-----080902 221401Z /43

R 220616Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1146
INFO DET 14 2 ADG TORREJON AB SP
2ADG LANGLEY AFB VA/DOC
HQ USAF WASHDC/XOXXI/XOOT
SECDEF OASD/ISA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2140

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MMOL, MILL, MPOL, TU
SUBJ: F-14A FERRY OVERFLIGHTS OF TURKISH AIRSPACE ENROUTE TEHRAN

REF: DET 14 2ADG TORREJON MESSAGE 031420Z MAR 78(NOTAL)

1. FOR SECSTATE: FOR THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS THE USG HAS BEEN DELIVERING F-14A AIRCRAFT TO IRAN IN A FERRY OPERATION THAT OVERFLIES TURKISH AIRSPACE. (BEFORE THE F-14A PROGRAM, F-4 AIRCRAFT WERE SIMILARLY DELIVERED.) THE GOT HAS ROUTINELY PROVIDED DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR THESE OVERFLIGHTS WHICH SPECIFY THAT FLIGHT PLANS MUST BE FILED WITH TURKISH AIR FORCE FORTY-EIGHT HOURS IN ADVANCE, NO INFLIGHT REFUELING OVER TURKISH AIRSPACE AND THAT THE USG COMPENSATES FOR ANY DAMAGE RESULTING FROM THE FLIGHTS.

2. ON MARCH 17, THE GOT CLEARED THE MARCH 28 FLIGHT OF THREE F-14A AIRCRAFT AND AN ACCOMPANYING TANKER AS REQUESTED REFTTEL. THE TURKISH DIPLOMATIC NOTE DIFFERED FROM SIMILAR NOTES IN THE PAST IN THAT IT SPECIFIES THAT NOTAM 714 "WILL BE FULLY COM-PLIED WITH" AND "THE THREE F-14A AIRCRAFT GROUP AND THE ACCOMPANYING KC-135 REFUELING TANKER WILL OVERFLY AT INTERVALS
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...AND WILL OBSERVE THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE TURKISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER CONCERNING ALTITUDES AT WHICH THE OVERFLIGHTS WILL BE PERMITTED."

3. RELATEDLY, MFA DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS HALUK OZGUL CALLED IN MSA COUNSELOR MARCH 18 AND, INTER ALIA, COMPLAINED ABOUT A RECENT FERRY FLIGHT. OZGUL SAID THAT ON JANUARY 25,

THREE F-14 AIRCRAFT ACCOMPANIED BY A KC-135 TANKER TRANSITTED TURKISH AIRSPACE "AS A GROUP" INSTEAD OF "AT INTERVALS" AND DID NOT REPORT TO ERCAN CONTROL AND DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE DIRECTIVES OF NOTAM 714.

4. FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES:

A. IN RESPONSE TO THE CONDITIONS CITED ABOVE PARTICIPATING AIRCREWS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

1. REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN USAF FOREIGN CLEARANCE GUIDE, CLASSIFIED SUPPLEMENT TURKEY, PAGES, PARA 7A, C AND 3.

2. CAREFULLY COMPLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS OF TURKISH ATC FACILITIES WHILE IN THE ANKARA FIR.

3. INSURE THAT MISSION IS FLOWN AS APPROVED ON DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUEST.

B. AIRCREWS SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT US MILITARY AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS IN TURKISH AIRSPACE ARE BEING CLOSELY MONITORED AND DEVIATION FROM CLEARANCE COULD JEOPARDIZE FUTURE MISSIONS OF THIS TYPE.

C. IN NOVEMBER 1977, TURKISH AIR FORCE (TAF) ATC INFORMED DAO ANKARA THAT ON ALL OVERFLIGHT DELIVERIES:

1. TANKERS AND FIGHTERS MUST BE ON SEPARATE CLEARANCES.

2. ETA'S AND ETD'S FOR TURKISH AIRSPACE WILL BE ARRANGED TO PROVIDE THIRTY MINUTES SEPARATION BETWEEN TANKERS AND FIGHTERS.

D. DAO ANKARA HAS DISCUSSED WITH TAF THE OPERATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEMS POSED BY THE THIRTY MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN TANKER AND FIGHTERS. ON MARCH 21, TAF AGREED TO ACCEPT A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERVAL. TAF INSISTS THE INTERVAL IS NEEDED FOR FLIGHT SAFETY. WE BELIEVE IT TO BE DESIGNED IN INSURE THAT NO REFUELING TAKES PLACE IN TURKISH AIRSPACE.

5. FOR 2D ADG: PLEASE SUBMIT REVISED FLIGHT REQUEST WITH FIFTEEN MINUTE SEPARATION, OR ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL TO USDAO ANKARA, ASAP.

6. FOR ADDRESSEES: THE TURKISH NOTE REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT COMPLIANCE WITH NOTAM 714 HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY LISTED AS A CONDITION FOR A FLIGHT CLEARANCE IN A DIPLOMATIC NOTE. THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 3 WERE DESIGNED TO SATISFY SOME OF THE INTENT OF NTOAM 714 WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY COMPLYING WITH IT OR RECOGNIZING ITS VALIDITY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT OUR EFFORTS TO DEFLECT THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL AND THE GOT WILL FORMALLY PROTEST OUR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH NOTAM 714 PROCEDURES. IF THIS WERE TO OCCUR NOT ONLY WOULD FUTURE FERRY FLIGHTS BE JAOPARDIZED BUT ALL OF OUR OUT-OF-COUNTRY FLIGHTS TO INCIRLIK WOULD BE

AFFECTED. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT UNTIL THE GOT MAKES ANOTHER
MOVE ON THIS ISSUE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW OUR ROUTINE
PROCEDURES.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGULATIONS, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, AIRCRAFT OVERFLIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA02140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0344
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780340/aaaabhfa.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c01861c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3248448
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-14A FERRY OVERFLIGHTS OF TURKISH AIRSPACE ENROUTE TEHRAN
TAGS: MMOL, MILI, MPOL, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c01861c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014